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Abstract of the Invention

A method of handwriting recognition encourages the entry of an entire word, and presents the "most likely" word or words. A "look-ahead" mode of operation is implemented, wherein most probable word or words corresponding to the entered letters
5 are identified in a dictionary; and presented to the user in such a way that the user may discontinue the entry of further letters if one the words identified in the dictionary matches the desired word. The determination of the most likely word or words may be based on a combination of one or more criteria, including the characters themselves, the length of the word, the relative placement of the recognized characters within the word,
10 and so forth. The result may also be presented in various ways singly or in combination according to the invention. In addition to a presentation of the highest probable word, the 'n' highest probable words may be presented. Alternatively, the highest probable word may be presented and, upon prompting by the user, presentation of a number of next highest probable words.

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